

## James Monroe to Andrew Jackson, February 14, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### SECRETARY MONROE TO JACKSON.

Department of War, February 14, 1815.

*Sir.* It is with great satisfaction I inform you that a Treaty of peace was concluded between the United States and Great Britain at Ghent on the 24th day of December last. A copy of this Treaty was received to day by Mr. Carroll; has been examined by the President, and will I have no doubt be ratified. I give you this information that hostilities may immediately cease between our troops and those of Great Britain.<sup>1</sup>

1 Feb. 16, 1815, Secretary Monroe wrote that the President and the Senate had ratified the treaty, and directed the discharge of the militia. The letter of the 14th was given to a special messenger, to be carried to New Orleans. He set out at once with a sealed package, and a note of instructions to postal agents saying, "Mr. Charles Bell, the bearer hereof, is charged with dispatches relative to the state of peace which has taken place between the United States and Great Britain", and signed by the postmaster-general. Bell arrived at New Orleans Mar. 6. Jackson eagerly broke the seal of the package delivered him, to find that by mistake Monroe's letter of Feb. 14 was not enclosed, but an old order relative to the calling out of militia. Despite the accompanying instructions, Jackson decided that he could not risk a relaxation of vigilance. To one of the local editors he sent, Mar. 7, 1815, the postmaster-general's instructions, with the following note, for publication:

"From the enclosed, which the commanding general believes to be genuine, the very pleasing intelligence of peace is placed almost beyond a doubt. You will please, however,

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in giving it publicity, to state the despatches referred to have not, from some extra-ordinary occurrence, reached the commanding general, and consequently leaves us in doubt whether the state of peace relates to the treaty as negotiated at Ghent, or to the ratification by the President of the United States. With due consideration, etc" ( *Niles' Register*, VIII. 122). Monroe's letter of Feb. 16 reached Jackson Mar. 13.

I have the honor to be, Sir, with great respect